

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – A.P.Prohibition of Ragging Act 1997 (Act 26/1997) – Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India prescribing certain guidelines for prevention of ragging Educational Institution – Instructions – Issued.

HIGHER EDUCATION (EC.2) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No 19.

Dated:08.03.2010.

Read the following:-

- 1) A.P.Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997 (Act 26/1997)
- 2) G.O.Ms.No.67, Higher Education (EC.2) Dept., dt.31.8.2002.
- 3) Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dt.8.5.2009 in Civil Appeal No.887 of 2009.

ORDER:

The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997 was enacted "to curb the evil practice of ragging in Educational Institutions. Further 'the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Ragging in all Educational Institutions Rules, 2002' were issued in G.O.Ms.No.67, Higher Education (EC) Department, dt.31.8.2002 and circular instructions / guidelines for prevention of ragging in Educational Institutions were issued in Government Memo.No.4276/EC/ A2/06-1, Higher Education (EC.2) Department, dt.20.3.2006 and in circular Memo.No.10707/CE.I-2/06, Higher Education (CE.I-2) Department, dt.31.8.2006 and dt.9.11.2006 D.O.Lr.No.10707/CE.I-2/2006, Dt.26.9.2007 and Letter No.3593/EC.2/2009-1, Higher Education (EC.2) Dept., dt.24.4.2009.

In spite of this, in recent times, some ragging cases were noticed and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has taken a serious view of such incidents.

Further the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dt.12.6.2009 in C.A. No.887/2009 held that it become necessary that the following recommendations made by the Raghavan Committee be implemented immediately namely:-

- (i) Every institution should engage or seek the assistance of professional counselors at the time of admissions to counsel 'freshers' in order to prepare them for the life ahead, particularly for adjusting to the life in hostels.
- (ii) On the arrival of senior students after the first week or after the second week, as the case may be, further orientation programmes must be scheduled as follows (i) joint sensitization programme and counseling of both 'freshers' and senior by a Professional counselor; (ii) joint orientation programme of 'freshers' and senior to be addressed by the Principal / Head of Institution, and the

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anti ragging committee; (iii) organization on a large scale of cultural, sports and other activities to provide a platform for the 'freshers' and seniors to interact in the presence of faculty members; (iv) in the hostel, the warden should address all students; may request two junior colleagues from the college faculty to assist the warden by becoming resident tutors for a temporary duration; and, the UGC and other funding bodies should provide financial grants for meeting the expenditure on resident tutors (v) as far as possible faculty members should dine with the hostel residents in their respective hostels to instill a feeling of confidence among the fresh residents."

- (iii) Every institution must have an Anti-Ragging Committee and an Anti-Ragging Squad. It is essential to have a diverse mix of membership in terms of levels as well as gender in both the Anti-Ragging Squad as well as the Anti-Ragging Committee. The Anti-Ragging Committee at the level of the institution should consist of the representatives of civil and police administration, local media, Non Government Organizations involved in youth activities, representatives of faculty members, representatives of parents, representatives of students belonging to the freshers category as well as seniors, non teaching staff and should be headed by the Head of the Institution. The Anti-Ragging Squad, in contrast, should be a body with vigil, oversight and patrolling functions and should appropriately be a smaller body which should be nominated by the Head of the Institution with such representation as considered necessary to keep it mobile, alert and active at all time. The Squad may be called upon to make surprise raids on hostels and other hot spots and should be empowered to inspect places of potential ragging. The Squad should work under the overall guidance of Anti-Ragging Committee. *The Squad should not have any outside representation and should only consist of members belonging to the various sections of the campus community."*
- (iv) A District level Anti-Ragging Committee be constituted consisting of the Heads of Higher Education Institutions as members Headed by the District Collector / Deputy Commissioner / District Magistrate and should also have the Superintendent of Police / SSP of the District as Member. The Additional District Magistrate should be a member-Secretary of the Committee, which should also have representation of the local media and district level Non Government Organizations actively associated in youth development programmes, as well as representations of all student organizations. The District level Committee should hold preparatory meetings during the summer vacation meetings to take stock of the state of preparedness of each institution and their compliance

with the policies and directions or guidelines of the appropriate bodies, the University / State / Central Authorities; and this Supreme Court's guidelines in regard to curbing the menace of ragging. Summer months may be appropriate to launch public campaigns.

- (v) At the level of the University, there should be a Monitoring Cell on Ragging, which should coordinate with the affiliated colleges and institutions under its domain. The Cell should call for reports from the Head of institutions in regard to the activities of the Anti Ragging Committee, Anti Ragging Squads, Monitoring Cells at the level of the institution, the compliance with instructions on conducting orientation programmes, counseling sessions, the incident of ragging, the problems faced by the wardens or other officials. It should also keep itself abreast of the decisions of the District level Anti Ragging Committee. This Monitoring Cell should also review the efforts made by institutions to publicize anti ragging measures, soliciting of undertaking from parents and students each year to abstain from ragging activities or willingness to be penalized for violations; and should function as the prime mover for initiating action on the part of the appropriate authorities of the university for amending the Statutes or Ordinances or Bye laws to facilitate the implementation of anti ragging measures at the level of the institutions."
- (vi) There should be a State Level Monitoring Cell at the level of the Chancellor of the State Universities, who may also coordinate with those of the Central Government institutions located in the State in which the Governor has a defined role under the relevant law. Governors, in their capacity as Chancellors of State Universities, can leverage the influence of their office to ensure that the State Government as well as the university authorities are suitably instructed to be alert in regard to ragging. The involvement of Governors would also ensure that the autonomy of institutions of higher learning is not compromised. In addition, Governors of State are associated with Central Universities in their role as Chief Rector / Chancellor etc. and can oversee the function of coordination where required vis-à-vis the office of the President of India in his capacity as the Visitor of the Central Universities and also the Central Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The State level Monitoring Cell should receive periodically, and at such frequencies that it may low down, status reports from the University level Monitoring Cells and Districts level Anti- Ragging Committees."

- (vii) In the light of the increasing number of private commercially managed, lodges or hostels outside campuses, such hostels and management must be registered with the local police authorities and permission to start such hostels or register them must necessarily be recommended by the Heads of educational institutions. It should be mandatory for both local police, local administration as well as institutional authorities to ensure vigil on incidents that may come within the definition of ragging. Managements of such private hostels should be responsible for non reporting of cases of ragging in such premises. Local authorities as well as the institutional authorities should be responsible for action in the event of ragging in such premises, just as they would be for incidents within campuses. The Committee also recommends that besides registering private hostels as stated above, the towns or cities where educational institutions are located should be apportioned as sectors among faculty members, as is being done by some institutions, so that they could maintain vigil and report any incidents of ragging outside campuses and en route while 'freshers' commute."
- (viii) Wardens must be accessible at all hours and therefore it is important that they, be available on telephone and other modes of communication – Therefore, the wardens must be issued mobile phone by the institutions and the details of their telephone number must be widely publicized. Similarly, the telephone numbers of the other important functionaries – Heads of institutions, faculty members, members of the anti ragging committees, district and sub divisional authorities and State authorities where relevant, should also be widely disseminated for the needy to get in touch or seek help in emergencies. Brochures or booklet / leaflet distributed to each student at the beginning of each academic session for obtaining undertaking not to indulge or abet ragging and shall contain the blueprint of prevention and methods of redress."

The educational institutions shall ensure that each hostel should have a full time warden who resides within the hostel, or at the very least, in the close vicinity thereof. It is desirable that institutions should provide necessary incentives for the post of full time warden, so as to attract suitable candidates.

- (ix) In addition to penal consequences, departmental enquiries be initiated against such heads institutions / members of the administration / faculty members / non teaching staff, who display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging.

- (x) Not only the students, but also the faculty who must be sensitized towards the ills of ragging, and the prevention thereof. Non teaching staff, which includes administrative staff, contract employees, security guards etc., have also to be regularly sensitized towards the evils and consequences of ragging.
- (xi) The Principal or Head of the Institution / Department shall obtain an undertaking from every employee of the institution including teaching and non teaching members of staff, contract labour employed in the premises either for running canteen or as watch and ward staff or for cleaning or maintenance of the buildings / lawns etc. that he / she would report promptly any case of ragging which comes to his / her notice. A provision shall be made in the service rules for issuing certificates of appreciation to such members of the staff who report ragging which will form part of their service record.
- (xii) The employers / employees of the canteens / mess shall be given necessary instructions to keep strict vigil and to report the incidents of ragging to the college authorities if any.
- (xiii) Each batch of freshers should be divided into small groups and each such group shall be assigned to a member of the staff. Such staff member should interact individually with, each member of the group on a daily basis for ascertaining the problems / difficulties if any faced by the fresher in the institution and extending necessary help. By building up rapport with each member of the group teachers or other members of the staff would be able to infuse confidence in the freshers and make them feel at home so as to enable them to report incidents of ragging or bullying. Each group in charge shall maintain a diary of his / her interaction with the freshers under his / her charge.
- (xiv) In case of freshers admitted to a hostel it shall be the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the group to coordinate with the warden of the hostel and to make surprise visits to the rooms in the hostel where the members of the group are lodged.
- (xv) Freshers shall be lodged in a separate hostel block, wherever possible, and where such facilities are not available, the college / institution shall ensure that seniors' access to freshers' accommodation is strictly monitored by wardens, security guards and college staff.
- (xvi) A round the clock vigil against ragging in the hostel premises shall be provided.

It is necessary that parents / guardians of freshers assume responsibility for promptly bringing to the notice of the Head of the Institution any instance of ragging.

- (xvii) The SHO / SP, within whose jurisdiction a particular college falls, shall be responsible for ensuring that no ragging takes place on the campus of the concerned college, and to effectively deal with incidents of ragging, should, any such incidents take place. Once a central database / crisis hotline is made operative then as soon as SHO /SP, within whose jurisdiction a particular college falls, is contacted by the crisis hotline staff, then such SHO / SP shall deal effectively with the incident and cooperate and communicate with the crisis hotline staff and / or the independent monitoring agency.
- (xviii) A committee be appointed at university level comprising one or more eminent psychiatrists / psychologists / mental health specialists, a documentary maker and educationalists from various fields, to (i) ascertain the psychological impact of ragging on students; (ii) to ascertain reasons and circumstances under which senior students resort to ragging; (iii) assess and quantify the impact of ragging and indiscipline on the standard of education in an institution and relate it to the existing procedures used by MCI, UGC and other regulatory bodies to assess the suitability of an institution for recognition; and (iv) recommend urgent and mandatory mental health measures to be implemented in, and practiced by school, colleges, and all educational and vocational institutions, so as to aid the occurrence of ragging.

4. All Heads of Departments mentioned in the address entries are requested to communicate the above directions of Supreme Court of India to all Educational Institutions both aided and un-aided colleges / universities for strict compliance of the above instructions.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

C.R.BISWAL
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Commissioner of Technical Education, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
The Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
The Commissioner of Intermediate Education, Hyderabad.

All the Registrars of Universities in the State.

The Secretary, Board of Intermediate Education, Nampally, Hyderabad

The Secretary, A.P.State Council for Higher Education, Hyderabad.

All the Collectors & District Magistrates in the State.

Copy to:

The Law (A) Department.

The Special Officer, Advocate on Records in the Supreme Court of India, A.P.Bhavan, New Delhi.

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//Forwarded by Order//

SECTION OFFICER